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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Albania

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SUBJECT Activity in the Ports of Durres and Vlone.

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Ports of Durres and Vlone.

1. From 1 to 7 September 1950, two minesweepers were utilized in the vicinity of Cape Linguetta and in the Bay of Vlone to rearrange channel markers and barrage buoys. During this same time, six high-speed motorboats, manned by Albanian naval personnel, were very active in the Vlone area with armament visible on board consisting of either one heavy-caliber machine gun or one light automatic cannon of the 20 mm. type. In addition, an Albanian training ship of about 200 tons was in Vlone Bay, with Albanian naval cadets and non-commissioned officers, reportedly acting as instructors, on board.
2. From 8 to 10 September, the following four large steamships were docked and engaged in discharging and loading cargo at Durres:
 - a. The SS OPOLE, Polish registry, with a tonnage of approximately 3,000 tons, unloaded large, well-constructed crates, exceeding 10 tons each, said to contain large, unspecified machines and arms. These crates were unloaded by floating cranes mounted on pontoons.
 - b. The SS PLENANOY, Rumanian registry, a vessel of approximately 5,500 tons, was engaged in discharging large crates and small bundles and bales.
 - c. The SS NOTOVSKIM, Soviet registry, of about 2,000 tons, had just terminated the discharge of cargo. This vessel, which is painted white, carries both cargo and passengers and generally operates to and from the Black Sea ports. During the ship's stay in Durres, there was a constant bustle at the nearby wharf, which was accentuated by the continuous arrival and departure of large American (sic) cars and luxury items of Soviet production. The presence of these vehicles gave rise to the belief that the passengers who were disembarking or embarking on this vessel were high-ranking diplomats and personnel assigned to the various ministries or commissions in Albania.
 - d. The SS VAPTZAROV, Bulgarian registry, of approximately 4,000 tons, unloaded a cargo of machinery and was engaged in loading bitumen tar.
3. According to rumors among the populace of Durres at that time, a complete sugar refinery and factory had been transported from Trieste to Durres in the most recent past. The refinery had been dismantled in Germany and constituted a part of the war reparations material due Albania by Germany.

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